

25X1A 344

COUNTRY Poland REPORT NO.

TOPIC Winter Exercises of a Polish Infantry Unit in the Area South of Osterode.

25X1 EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT February 1953

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REFERENCES _____

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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1. In February 1953, Polish troop units held a winter exercise around Haasenberg (Q 54/E 23). Soldiers of the train of the unit, who bivouacked around the town of Haasenberg and had their horses in the town, said that they came from Osterode (Q 54/E 25). Source, who had almost no idea of military matters, estimated the number of the soldiers involved at battalion size. She saw only small arms. Besides the infantrymen, who wore brown overcoats, laced shoes and low puttees with buckles and no special winter clothing, 25X1 about 40 mounted soldiers and a large number of horse-drawn train vehicles including field kitchens, ambulances and a field forge.
2. During the day hours, the infantrymen, who came from the direction of Osterode, advanced in developed and deployed formation and entrenched in the snow-covered ground around Haasenberg. Except for the horses, the troops stayed in their positions overnight. On the next day, the unit moved in the direction of Gilgenburg (Q 54/E 34). Neither parkas nor other camouflage clothes were observed. Blank cartridges and light signals were used during the exercise. The soldiers involved seemed to belong to young classes, which were serving their term of military service. Throughout the exercise, source saw no motor vehicles.

25X1A 1. Comment. On the strength of previous information an infantry regiment is carried in Osterode and the AT battalion of the 15th Inf Div in Allenstein. It appears strange that no motor vehicles whatsoever should have been involved by the exercise.

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